

FEBRUARY 1935

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN-HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD.

DIAMOND DICK.

(Courtesy-Long Beach Press Telegram)

Signal honors have come to "Deadwood Dick" of dime-novel fame, and if a trifle belated, they are twofold. Charles J. Finger, the writer, has written a whole book about the dime novels of the "wild and wooly West" period, and almost simultaneously a space has been cleared on the shelves of the rare book room in the Library of Congress for a fitting collection of Diamond Dick's hair-raising exploits among the redskins.

In retrospect and particularly in the light of such of the so-called literature of the present, it is rather difficult to understand why Deadwood Dick and his companions found such an unhealthy welcome in the homes of the '60's and '70's, when they first made their appearance. Certainly, the heroes were real he-men with vigor and high chivalry, and certainly the villains met the dire fate that all such characters should meet. There were no thread-like lines, separating good from evil. The dime-novel girls had "limbs", not legs, and always girls were properly clothed. Furthermore, they remained true to their own true loves.

But of course, those were the days when children were to be seen and not heard. The approved books written for them were chiefly sugar-coated, actionless volumes of etiquette and morals. So it is not surprising that the more daring and red-blooded youth who would

follow Diamond Dick's rollicksome, though oftentimes bloody trails over the Wild West, found it necessary to read very much in private, possibly in the attic or the barn, and then, if captured by an irate father, pay for his momentary delight by making a trip to the woodshed.

Mr. Finger stresses the part which the dime novel played in creating a taste for better literature. The adventures and thrills of Diamond Dick often created a sincere taste in the youth, for such tales as "Treasure Island" and other adventure stories of acknowledged literary excellence. The Library of Congress finds the novels of importance because they actually do contain much that is authentic about the Wild West days.

Thus does another redskin leap into the air and bite the dust, and Diamond Dick, after all these years, adds another notch on his gun.

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TIP TOP CLUB REPORT.

Since the last report we have added the following new members:

No. 8. L. C. SKINNER, 36 Chaplin St., Pawtucket,
R. I.

No. 9. GEO. FRENCH, 121 W. Passaic Av.,
Bloomfield, N. J.

No. 10. J. P. GUINON, Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

No. 11. L. MORGAN, 3018-25th St., Washington, D. C.

No. 12. FRED LEE, 4050 Cornelius Av.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Compiled lists of all members wants and duplicates of Tip Top Weekly and New Tip Top Weekly, have been issued and mailed to the members, so by this time, many should have completed several exchanges to their mutual benefit.

Special Notice:

All members are requested to send the secretary a new list soon as they receive and

read this notice, so that a corrected list of wants can be issued as of March 1st, and in readiness for new members. In a former issue, we suggested that members having completed their file of Tip-Top Weekly, write up a brief item of their thrilling experience in getting that last wanted number. Here's one that is worth reading.

THAT FINAL TIP TOP: It was No. 73-Frank Merriwell's Flyer, or The Winning Wheel. I thought I would never get it, but at last, through Keel of Buffalo, I succeeded. What a thrill to see the picture and read the story that completed my set ! Indirectly it came about through the Applause column of Tip Top. I wrote to a boy in St. Paul who had a letter in the Applause, and he told me of a trip to Buffalo and of the big novel store he had found there. He gave the address, so I wrote to Keel, and what a gold mine, I struck. Besides my precious Tip Top, I got from him-Diamond Dick from 1 to 252 complete-Nick Carter, 1 to 221 with about 30 missing-besides many others. This was about 1913. Keel was perfect to deal with, no substitutions. Incidentally, the first novel I ever read, was Tip Top No. 151, Frank Merriwell Betrayed, or The Downfall of Hodge; a fine story of the old stage series.

(Harold C. Holmes-Tip Top Club, No. 7)

(358 Crown St., New Haven, Conn.)

Mr. Holmes, by the way, is willing to answer questions from Tip Top readers regarding New Haven or Yale, about which many of the Tip Top stories were written.

Bob Smeltzer, T.T.C. No. 2, points out that beginning with No. 752 to 771 inclusive, Burt L. Standish ran a short in the back portion of every issue; fine tales too. A few of the titles are: "Zinjiji, or, A Black Skinned Hero" "A Jolly Ghost"; "Jim's Visit"- "Saved by a Squid"-and others. Look 'em over, boys.

Bob also points out that one of the outstanding characters, and he actually existed in the flesh, of the later issues is dear old Captain Wiley. It will be remembered that Bill Burns once wrote very interestingly on Captain Wiley and those parts of Maine which were his haunts. To be exact, the article, entitled, "Gilbert Patten (Burt L. Standish) and Captain Wiley", appeared in No. 23 (Vol. 4, No. 5) Sept.-Oct., 1928, of Happy Hours Magazine.

Captain Wiley is pictured in his flaming sport togs on the baseball diamond, on the cover of a certain issue of Tip Top. It's well worth having. No. 537 is the issue.

By the way, Bob is the proud possessor of the Biography of Captain Wiley, taken from several issues of Top Notch Magazine, in which appeared the last of the stories of this famous writer. The first installment contains a picture of Burt L. Standish in straw hat, with the smile that won't come off.

Won't some other member give us a brief of their thrill in connection with the last number completing their file of Tip Top? Also, other interesting briefs wanted.

The undersigned hopes that all members are enjoying the list of wants and duplicates, represent them, and now, be sure and send me a corrected list for next compiling, as of March first, 1935....-----o----- Fraternally, M.E. MARSH, Sec'y.

A SENSATION OF THE 60'S.

This Dime Novel Set Fashion, and It Has Been Reprinted Several Times.

Just seventy-five years ago, there appeared, the first of the dime book series, from the press of a new publishing house of that period. It was the first of the famous Beadle Dime Novels. "Malaeska", the Indian Wife of a White Hunter, it was named, and written by a well-known lady of that time, for it was the Work of Mrs. Ann Sophia Winterbottom Stephens.

one of the founders of "The Ladies World" and "The Ladies Companion", of that time. She was of such considerable repute that she enjoyed the friendship and esteem of Thackeray, Von Humboldt, Dickens, and many others. And to think that she wrote the first number of the Beadles Dime Novels of the 1860's, a small book of 100 or more pages, with salmon color covers, and sold for a dime; which was destined to have a more important effect on the reading habits of that generation than any other publication of that time.

"The Old Homestead", which was played for for more than 30 years, was one of her works, besides several others of that time. It was inevitable that the dime novel, which has sold in auctions at enormous prices, should be reprinted. It appears now, not for only a thin dime, but at a 2400 percent increase in price, for \$2.50, which some say, "one may morosely regard as a dime's equivalent." The Malaeska was printed several years ago, by the John Day Publishing Co.

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Bob Smeltzer continues to "bust" into print with dime-novel articles; the latest being one on Jack Wright and Frank Reade novels, and it's a "daisy", you bet, showing two illustrations—one of J. Wright, and the other a Frank Reade.

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JOSEPH RICHARDS, 349 Summer St., New Bedford, Mass., brings out a new swap paper, THE NEW ENGLAND HOBBY SWAPPER. Now you have it. Joe's a good fellow, and will treat you right, and so will The Swapper.

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THIS IS A REPRINT, and being mimeographed, requires more than the original four pages.

We therefore, list on the last page of this reprint, a summary of the Ads appearing in the original.

SUMMARY OF ADS IN ORIGINAL.

WM.J.BENNNERS listed a long list of his wants:
Boy's Own-Fireside Companions-Beadle's Half
Dime-N.Y.Detective-Munro's-Wide Awake-and a
great many others.

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The NATIONAL RABBIT REVIEW was offered to
all beginners in that industry.

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ROBERT SMELTZER of Phila., was looking for
an elusive Wide Awake, #1254 in perfect con-
dition....

L.MORGAN of Washington, D.C. wanted Rough
Rider-Frank Reade Weeklys-Buffalo Bill's-
Diamond Dicks-and James Boys....

HARRY MATLER of Brookfield, Mo., offered to
help "beat hard times"....

ROBERT BURNS of Baltimore, wanted Cigarette
Cards-Wild West-Secret Service-Liberty Boys-
Rubber Phonograph Records-and offered such
records-colored comics-and small size Wolff
novels.....

WM.KRELING of San Francisco wanted Malaeska
published by John Day Co. in 1928.....

J.REISCHMANN of Chicago was looking for
numbers of James Boys Weeklies-Blue & Gray-
and Young Klondike.....

THE SWAPPER'S FRIEND offered their friend-
ship for a whole year for .50¢....

J.P.GUINON, of Little Rock, Ark., was BUYING
SELLING & EXCHANGING TIP TOP WEEKLIES....

And the TAB LONESOME CLUB of Dixon, Illinois
was offering to find you a "lot of real
pals.".....

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We remind you that THIS IS A REPRINT and
that the contents of this page is only a
summary of the Ads that appeared in the
original issue (No.38).